

178

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY	USSR/East Germany	REPORT NO.	<div></div>	50X1
SUBJECT	Soviet Army Training	DATE DISTR.	9 August 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	11	
50X1	DATE OF INFO.	<div></div>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
50X1	PLACE ACQUIRED	<div></div>	REFERENCES	
	DATE ACQUIRED	<div></div>		

LIBRARY SUBJECT AND AREA CODES (10)

3-02-0406	8/55
238.2	N(3M)
238.3	N(3M)
238.4	N(3M)
238.41	N(3M)
238.5	N(3M)

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC					
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)															

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

REPORT NO. 50X1

COUNTRY USSR/East Germany

DATE DISTR. 28 June 1955

SUBJECT Soviet Army Training

NO. OF PAGES 10

50X1 DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

50X1 PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

SOVIET ARMY TRAINING

50X1

A. Basic Training in the USSR

basic train-
ing lasted about two months, and it
was called either "the young soldier's course" (kurs molodovo boitsa) or
"quarantine".²

50X1

Daily Schedules

there were about 30 days of actual basic
training given during this two-month period. The rest of the time was devoted
to various work details, and trainees very rarely trained
eight hours a day. Most of the time they would alternately train and go on
work details during any one day.

50X1

50X1

Trainees had hardly any free time at all. On Sundays they might be allowed a
few moments to write letters or sew on their collar liners, but they always had
to remain in the caserne area.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

50X1

Training Personnel and Organization

50X1

2. Training was mostly supervised by sergeants. For the most part officers gave only political training and some lectures on various subjects, [redacted] However, officers were present when [redacted] trainees fired, which only occurred once during the entire basic training.

Trainees were divided into training platoons headed by lieutenants and assisted by sergeants. These platoons, in turn, were divided into training squads headed by corporals.

Subjects of Instruction

50X1

3. Basic training [redacted] comprised the following subjects.
- a. Introductory Lectures. These outlined such general matters as military duties in general, responsibilities and privileges of soldiers, military pay and the passes and other free time given to soldiers.
 - b. Close-Order Drill
 - c. Military Courtesy
 - d. Physical Training
 - e. Tactical Training. This training was actually very slightly emphasized. It consisted of extremely rudimentary individual and squad level techniques. Cadre personnel showed trainees how to occupy and leave trenches and how to attach out of trenches. They gave some instruction on individual camouflage technique, how to dig foxholes, and other related techniques. Trainees trained with M1943 carbines or PPSH41 SMGs but without live ammunition.
 - f. Political Training. This, [redacted] took place on Tuesdays and Fridays, two hours each day. [redacted]
 - g. Cross-Country Runs. Trainees ran about one kilometer, stripped to the waist. These runs often took place on Sundays, when no other training was scheduled.
 - h. Study of Basic Field Manual. Sergeants would read to trainees excerpts from the Manual on Interior and Garrison Guard Duty, and there would be question and answer periods.
 - i. Weapons Instruction (materialnaya chast or matchast). Trainees would study the nomenclature and functions of various parts of the SMG and carbine.
 - j. Dry-Firing. This was only practiced once or twice before firing.
 - k. Firing. Trainees during [redacted] basic training only fired once from PPSH SMGs. No one fired from carbines. They fired three rounds slow-fire from the prone position, at silhouette targets and over a distance of either 50 or 100 m. This was familiarization fire. [redacted]
 - l. Grenade Throwing. Trainees practiced this twice. Each time they threw three wooden dummy grenades from a distance of 25 m. at sticks stuck into the ground and surrounded by concentric circles drawn on the ground. The closer trainees threw grenades to sticks, the better was their performance.

50X1

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

50X1

- m. Individual Study (sampedgotovka). Two hours a day were set aside for this subject. During this time trainees studied songs, cleaned their weapons and wrote themes on political subjects.
- n. Movies. Twice a week, on Saturdays and on Sunday evenings, trainees were shown documentary and entertainment films. [redacted] the following films: "Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya", dealing with the story of a partisan girl operating in the German rear and hanged by the Germans during World War II; and "Aleksandr Matrosov", a World War II story of a soldier who sacrificed his life by stopping enemy machine gun fire with his body, thus enabling his comrades to capture a German pillbox.
- o. Lectures. Prior to being shipped to East Germany, [redacted] trainees were given lectures on how to behave there. They were told not to drink, not to fraternize with the girls in East Germany, who were all capitalists and spies, and to set an example to the Germans.

50X1

50X1

Examinations

- 4. There were no examinations or inspections of any kind at the end of basic training.

50X1 B. Advanced Basic Training and Border Patrol Training in East Germany

[redacted] the 4th Co, 93d Sep Security Bn in Bockstadt (N 50-25, E 10-54). This was the training company of the same battalion.³

50X1

Training Schedules

- 1. Training in the 4th Co lasted from about 1 August [redacted] to 27 October [redacted] and took place from 0600 hours to about 1900 or 2000 hours each training day, and sometimes the EM would train at night also. Actual training lasted 10 hours each day, six days a week; and this was not interrupted by work details, which were only performed on Saturdays. Sundays were free unless trainees had fallen behind in some phase of their training, in which case they would have to make it up then. Frequently on Sunday mornings, trainees also had to take one to two kilometer cross-country runs, while they would be shown movies, usually two at one sitting in the evening.

50X1

Cadre Personnel

- 2. Training was supervised by the company CO (a senior lieutenant), the platoon commanders, (lieutenants), the assistant platoon leaders (sergeants) and the squad leaders (corporals). The training company had three platoons, each of which had three squads.

Subjects of Instruction

- 3. Training comprised the following subjects [redacted]
- a. Calisthenics. This occupied about 20 minutes daily.
- b. Physical Training. This lasted about two hours every other day and included exercises on the horizontal bar and parallel bars, rope climbing and exercises on the horse.
- c. Border Patrol Training. This was given at least 12 hours a week. Although they were infantrymen, trainees studied the MVD Border Guard Manual (instruktsiya dlya neseniya sluzhby pogranichnikh naryadov). An officer would read from the manual to the trainees and there would be questions and answers. The lessons from the manual would be practiced outdoors in the

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

50X1

field, and in the woods during either the day or the night. There the trainees would practice going on patrol and interception of (simulated) illegal border crossers. Once they practiced using flares.⁴

50X1 In this connection, [] the soldiers of the 93d Bn wore infantry uniforms and shoulderboards and were considered infantry troops, even though they were trained to guard the border. However, they were often told during these border patrol lectures that they functioned as Border Guard (Pogranichniki) troops. Nevertheless, if as a result they complained about the food and expressed the opinion that they should be given better food and more privileges if they were Border Guard troops, the officers would again tell them that they were nothing but infantry troops.

d. Close-Order Drill. This lasted one to two hours about every other day.

e. Political Training. Usually this consisted of four hours a week of lectures and question and answer periods.⁵

50X1 f. Tactical Training. This would be conducted two to three hours at a time, several times a week. The trainees studied attack and defense tactics at the platoon level. They used gas masks and individual weapons, either LMGs, SMGs, or carbines []

g. Chemical Warfare Training. Trainees had about three sessions altogether on this subject, each lasting about one hour. They studied the various parts of the Shlem 1 gas mask and their use and were told how to act in case of a gas attack. No real gas or smoke screens were used.

h. Weapons Training and Firing. Each trainee trained with his own individual weapon (SMG, carbine, or LMG). [] such training was conducted about 15 times, two hours each time during his three months in the 4th Co. It included dry firing, and trainees fired about five times with live ammunition. The first time [] fired with an SMG three rounds of slowfire from the prone position and with hands resting on a support made of earth, at silhouette targets 70 m. away. The next four times [] from an SMG nine rounds from the prone position, at silhouette targets 100 m. away. [] nothing concerning scoring procedures.

50X1

50X1

50X1 i. Weapons Instruction and Nomenclature (matchast). About 10 times (two hours each time), trainees studied parts of the LMG, SMG and carbine, as well as their nomenclature and functions.

50X1 j. Engineer Training. For five periods, each lasting about two hours, trainees dug foxholes, studied their dimensions and then dug trenches connecting them.

k. Obstacle Course (shturmovaya podgotovka). Trainees ran a 200 m. obstacle course three times. They started from a prone position, simulating attack from trenches; then they climbed over a two meter high wooden fence, crawled under a wire fence, climbed over a 1½ m. high beam, took running jumps over three low hurdles and threw three dummy grenades into the window of a mock-up house. (This mock-up consisted of a partition with two window openings and one door opening.) Trainees had to throw three grenades through either window from a distance of about 20 m.

In front of the house stood three dummies. After throwing the grenades, trainees, who all carried carbines for this exercise, had to attack the three dummies with bayonets, run through the door, lie down behind the partition and assume prone firing positions.

l. Basic Manual Study. Trainees studied field manuals on interior and garrison guard duty and the manual on disciplinary matters (distsiplinarynyy ustav).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
- 4 -

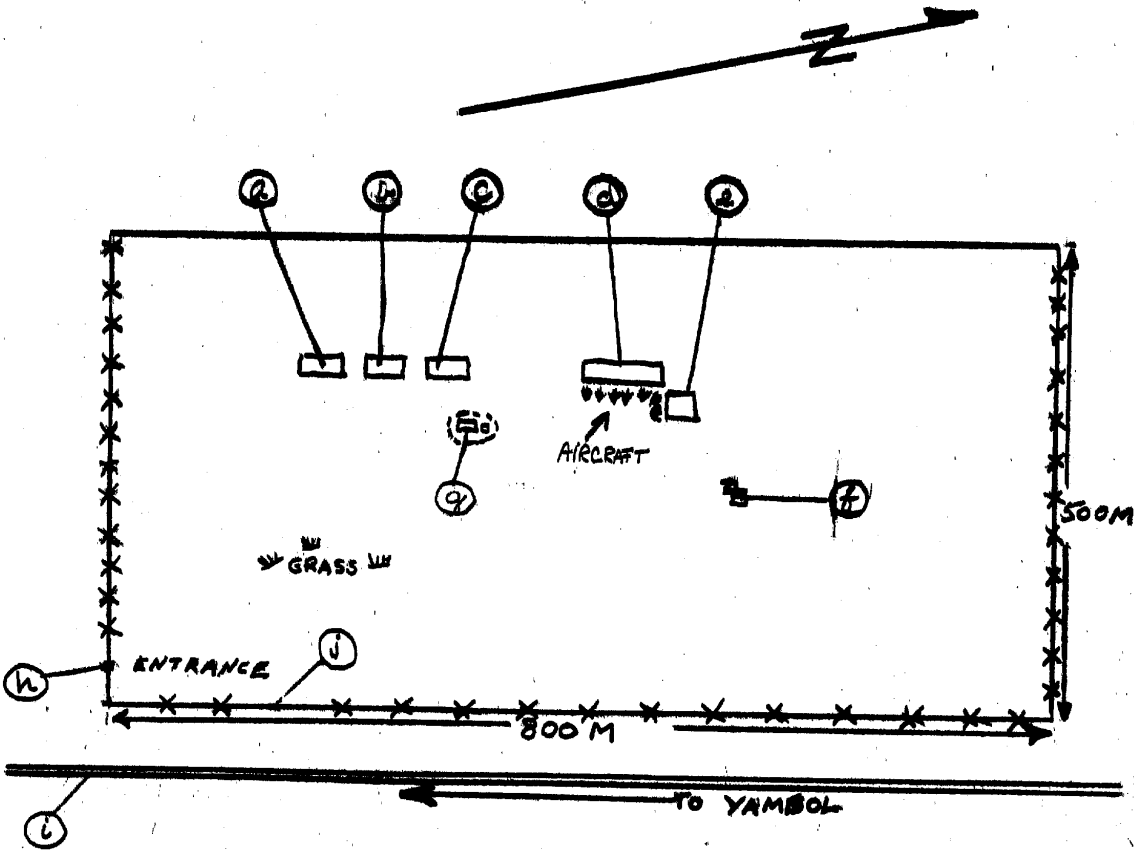
50X1

ILLEGIB

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted] Sketch of Yambol Airfield



50X1 NOTE: [Redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

50X1

- m. Scheduled Cross-Country Runs. In addition to the occasional cross-country runs performed on Sundays, there were about three one-kilometer cross-country runs during the regular training week. Soldiers ran these without weapons and stripped to the waist, except for an undershirt.
- n. Movies. Trainees saw movies on Sunday evening. These movies were both for entertainment and instructional purposes.
- o. Practice Alerts. There were about five of these in all, and they were called either at about 0100 hours or just prior to 0600 hours and reveille. They lasted about one hour. Trainees had to dress, gather their weapons, gas masks and fabric bags with clothing. If it was an alert "to the guns" (v ruzhye), soldiers would form in front of the barracks, where they were inspected as to whether they had brought all their equipment. If it was an alert "for combat" (k boyu), trainees had to occupy foxholes located near the caserne area. There they would be inspected by the officers, who would check if they had all their equipment and ask them questions as to what they would do in case of an enemy attack. Finally the trainees would form in front of barracks and stand another inspection.

50X1

Examination

50X1

4. [redacted] at the end of this training there was an examination and command inspection (inspektorskaya provyerka).

50X1 Training at the [redacted] 93d Sep Security Bn⁶

50X1 After [redacted] advanced basic training in the Training Company, 93d Sep Security Bn. [redacted] was assigned to [redacted] the same battalion [redacted] The [redacted] was located in Bockstadt until May 1953, when it moved to Schafhausen (N 50-34, E 1010).

50X1

Generally speaking, training became rigorous in Schafhausen, although [redacted] knew no reason for this since there was no change in command or in officer personnel at the time of the move.

50X1

Border Patrol Duty

- 50X1 1. Inasmuch as the [redacted] had a primary mission of guarding the USSR/US Zonal Border, all members of this company had to pull border patrol duty eight hours each day. Besides border patrol duty, soldiers [redacted] had to train about three hours a day, either in the morning or afternoon depending on when they were on border patrol duty.

50X1

The general schedule for any one squad of the nine making up the company was as follows. Each squad would go on border patrol duty for eight days. The first three days the squad would go on border patrol duty during the night, sleeping until the noonday meal on the following mornings and then training three hours afterwards. The fourth day the squad would shift to afternoon border patrol duty for two days, sleeping at night and training in the morning before the noonday meal. On the sixth and seventh days the squad would shift to morning border patrol duty, sleeping at night and training three hours in the afternoon. On the eighth day the squad would still go on border patrol duty in the morning and train in the afternoon after the noon meal, but it would start interior guard duty around the caserne area of the company that night. On the ninth day the squad would still stand interior guard duty but would not go on border patrol duty. Usually on this ninth day there was no training, although occasionally an overzealous platoon CO would order a squad to attend political training lectures. On the tenth day the squad would have the day off.⁷

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

50X1

Training was mostly conducted by sergeants (assistant platoon leaders) although firing was always supervised by officers, usually the platoon CO's but frequently also by the company CO and the political officer. [redacted] they did this "for want of something else to do".

50X1

With respect to training, three squads would train simultaneously. During the spring of 1953, after the move to Schafhausen, [redacted] company did not generally train at all. This was possibly because of the disruption caused by the move, since the unit lived in tents during this period. Training was resumed just before the command inspection (inspektorskaya proverka) held in the fall of 1953.

50X1

Training Schedules for Routine Subjects

2. Training in this company comprised the following subjects:

a. Political Training. This was given for six hours every 10 days, usually on Tuesdays and Fridays.

b. Weapons Training and Firing (ognovaya podgotovka). This dry firing instruction lasted about four hours during each 10-day cycle. [redacted] in Bockstadt they only fired about every other month; but after they moved to Schafhausen, they fired every month.

50X1

50X1

[redacted] In Bockstadt [redacted] each time 9 to 12 rounds from a prone position at silhouette targets 100 or 150 m. away. In Schafhausen [redacted] fired in addition from a standing or kneeling position and while walking; [redacted] fire 12 rounds, at a range of 75 to 100 m. when standing or kneeling and a range of 120 m. when walking. The targets were either full or one half-length silhouettes.

50X1

[redacted] had to fire all these courses within a specific time limit; [redacted] one firing exercise which consisted of firing four rounds each at three successive silhouette targets 150 m. away. Each four rounds had to be fired within 15 seconds, and the pauses between targets lasted about eight seconds. Occasionally [redacted] EM also fired from trenches, in a standing position, at three full-length silhouette targets 200 m. away. Three rounds had to be fired at each of the three targets within 12 seconds.

c. Tactical Training. This lasted about six hours each 10-day cycle. After May 1954 all tactical training was conducted from the atomic-warfare point of view.⁶ [redacted] until this atomic warfare-oriented training began, the distance between soldiers during a simulated attack was six to seven paces. After May 1954 this distance was increased to from 8 to 10 paces.

d. Field Manual Study. This was conducted for about three hours each 10-day cycle. It consisted of reviewing the basic manuals on interior and border guard duty previously studied in the training company of the same battalion.

e. Border Patrol Training. Theoretical and practical training of this kind was given about four hours each 10-day cycle. [redacted]

f. Weapons Instruction and Nomenclature (matchast). About one hour each 10-day cycle was devoted to this instruction. [redacted]

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-7-

50X1

Training in Special Subjects⁶

3. The above schedule would change slightly over the weeks, in that some subjects would occasionally be left out and new ones taken up. For instance, during some weeks soldiers would have engineer training, during which they dug trenches and foxholes. [redacted] following additional training subjects given [redacted]

a. Chemical Warfare Training. [redacted] about 10 one- to two-hour sessions given to this subject. They included theoretical lectures on various gases and practical sessions conducted by company officers and showing the use of the gas mask. On two occasions all company personnel not on border patrol duty were lined up about 250 m. from the company caserne in Schafhausen. The first sergeant lit about five cans, thus producing a smoke screen which the wind blew towards the soldiers who already were wearing their gas masks. In addition to this, [redacted] company conducted about five marches in gas masks. The first march was one kilometer, but the length successively increased to five kilometers. However, no real gas was ever used during chemical warfare training.

b. Miscellaneous Training. Once [redacted] squad practiced throwing from a trench one live grenade at a silhouette target about 25 m. away. [redacted] company had terrain problems involving the use of compasses. There were also training problems concerned with estimating distances.

[redacted] two signal training sessions given [redacted] during which it was shown how to signal with red and white cloth flags. [redacted] the following signals: a circular motion with red flag in right hand above head signified "assemble"; an up-and-down motion above the head with a red flag in the right hand signified "double time"; a white flag in the left hand laid on top of the head signified "gas".

[redacted] there was an eight kilometer cross-country run, in full uniform except for cap. [redacted]

Practice Alerts

4. Alerts were of the two types described in Section B3, above. Because of being on constant border patrol duty, soldiers [redacted] had little time for alerts of a practice variety. There only were about five in all [redacted] in Bockstadt.

[redacted] two other types of alerts, one an air alert (v vozdukh) and the other one a gas alert (v gazy). However, they were never practiced [redacted]

After the company moved to Schafhausen, there were more frequent practice alerts. [redacted] about 30 were conducted between May 1953 and November 1954.

[redacted] one unusual type of alert. About August 1954, five officers from the 93d Sep Security Bn Hq, including the Deputy C/S, a major, came [redacted] about 0500 hours and an alert "to the guns" was called. The assistant platoon leaders ordered some of the squad leaders to assign two men from each platoon to a detail involving the carrying of ammunition and emergency rations from the supply room and loading them on [redacted] trucks. Meanwhile the company CO announced a supposed breakthrough at the border by an unidentified band. The entire [redacted] less those soldiers on border patrol duty at that time, marched a distance of about eight kilometers and to within one kilometer of the border, with the trucks following behind. The order of march was as follows: first came one squad, then the bulk of the company. To the left and right of the company, at about 100 m.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-8-

50X1

distance, two patrols made up of two soldiers each protected the flanks; and an additional two-man patrol followed about 100 m. behind the company. The company CO remained with the bulk of the company and the platoon commanders with their respective platoons.

50X1

At one point the five battalion officers rode a Willys started firing into the air. The Co CO then ordered the company to deploy for combat and to occupy defensive positions in the field. Three of the soldiers, one squad leader, one PFC [] were sent out on a reconnaissance patrol; but they were called back after they had run about 300 m. in open terrain. Subsequently the entire company was marched back to the company area, although at first the Co CO had told them they were headed for another sector of the border where a real breakthrough had occurred.

50X1

[] another practice alert, which took place in 1953 [] In it the company rode off on the three company vehicles, apparently accompanied by the 4th Co and the Communications Platoon, with its mobile radio station, of the battalion. The battalion CO was also present. Several officers and soldiers enacted the part of illegal border crossers; they received their instructions by radio from the battalion CO. However, [] company CO found out through German Border Police where the supposed border crossers were hiding and succeeded in surrounding and capturing them.

50X1

Command Inspections

5. These command inspections were known as "inspektorskiye proverky" and took place in the spring and fall of each year. [] one in the fall of 1952 in Bockstadt. [] the inspecting group included a lieutenant colonel or a major and about four other officers, [] did not know where they came from. The inspection lasted about one week, but since border patrols continued during that time, the inspections and examinations would only take place during the three hours normally devoted to training. During each inspection [] a practice alert would be called once. [] tested on the following subjects.

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

a. Firing

50X1

[] nine rounds slow fire from an SMG, in a prone position, at silhouette targets 100 m. away.

b. Weapons Training

There were tests on the nomenclature and functions of parts of weapons.

c. Tactical Training

One tactical examination included a demonstration of a platoon in the attack, during which a few dummy grenades were thrown.

d. Political Training

There was an examination on political training.

Generally speaking all phases of training were reviewed in those examinations. There were obstacle courses, physical tests such as rope climbing, one kilometer cross-country runs, and other tests []

50X1

In the spring of 1953 there was no command inspection because of the [] move to Schafhausen. The next one took place in the fall of 1953 under the supervision of five officers, including an artillery major. These officers, so

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-9-

50X1

the rumor went, were all from Eighth Army Hq. Otherwise the inspection was much like the first one described above. The next inspection, much along the same lines, took place in the spring of 1954 and was also conducted by officers whom [redacted] were from Eighth Army Hq.

50X1

One of these officers, an infantry senior lieutenant, was rumored to be an English interpreter. This was revealed in the following manner. Later on in 1954, when a few American soldiers crossed the USSR/US Zonal Border in a jeep, soldiers [redacted] said that they had seen this senior lieutenant at the 93d Sep Security Bn Hq acting as an interpreter during the interrogation of the American soldiers. They recalled that at that time he had been a member of the inspection party. The only difference between this inspection in the spring of 1954 and previous ones was a three kilometer cross-country run. During this inspection [redacted] firing 12 rounds from a prone position with hand support at three silhouette targets. There was a time limit of about 15 seconds per target and a pause of eight seconds between targets. The latter were at 150 m.

50X1

50X1

50X1

The last inspection [redacted] took place approximately from 20 to 25 October 1954. This was the inspection where General-Major Shanin, C/S of Eighth Army, was present with other officers for about three hours.⁹ [redacted]

50X1

50X1

[redacted] the following details of the General's visit. First, the company waited for him in formation for about 1 1/2 hours. When he came he first reviewed the entire company in front of the caserne. He asked if there were any questions, but the Co CO had previously warned [redacted] personnel not to ask any, at the pain of 15 days in the guardhouse. Consequently there were no questions. Then the soldiers marched before the general and sang a song for him. This was followed by a practice alert and a one kilometer march. After that the soldiers demonstrated their skill in digging foxholes. In other respects this command inspection of the fall of 1954 was much like the previous ones, except for the general's visit. The inspection was conducted by five officers supposedly from Eighth Army, the highest ranking of whom was a major. One of the officers, a captain, was alleged to be a Hero of the Soviet Union. He was a pleasant individual and he talked to soldiers about the Kremlin and about the fact that now young people could visit it.

50X1

50X1

50X1 During the fall of 1954 [redacted] also underwent an inspection on atomic training.⁵

[redacted] in all these command inspections, the Co CO would try, if possible, to have the soldiers who did best on certain subjects take the tests in these respective subjects, since not all soldiers would be inspected in all subjects. However, in the fall of 1954, those soldiers that had missed taking examinations in certain subjects were subsequently examined on them by battalion officers. Every soldier who had missed taking a test on a certain subject during the command inspection also had to make it up at that time. Usually after the inspections were over, the Co CO would tell the soldiers about the deficiencies.

50X1

[redacted] generally speaking, the company always passed the inspections with "excellent".

50X1

7. Maneuvers, Exercises and Summer Training

50X1

[redacted] unit never participated in summer camp training, or in any maneuvers or exercises.

50X1

50X1

1. [redacted] Comment: See [redacted] for information on this installation. 50X1

50X1

2. [redacted] Comment: See [redacted] for the number of persons taking basic training.

50X1

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

Page Denied